



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING 2016 SUBMISSIONS**

### **ShopLocal's Fourth Annual Grant Program Helps Small Independent Businesses in the South Bay**

Redondo Beach, California (July 14, 2016) ----- ShopLocal.us announced the submission period is open for its fourth annual small business grant awards. The program is aimed specifically at helping independently-owned businesses based in the South Bay of Los Angeles grow or maintain their business. Qualifying businesses can win a grant for \$500 to \$2,000 in cash along with other business promotional prizes. To apply, a business must enter online at ShopLocal.us by September 30 and submit a 2-minute or less video featuring what a grant award would be used for to contribute most to their success as a small business.

Over the past three years, ShopLocal.us has given over \$10,000 in total grant awards and prizes to help local businesses in the South Bay community. Winners received this money to help fund important business needs and support the sustainability and growth of their business.

"Sometimes it just takes a little bit of cash to make a big difference. Whether it's investing in better marketing to boost sales, to getting a company van to better serve clients around the South Bay, the grants have helped our past winners take that next step in their business," said Heidi Butzine, Founder of ShopLocal.us and the South Bay Business Mavericks Gala. "Four years ago, I started the program because I saw a need and wanted to honor the hard work and grit it takes to be in business. The grant program has now grown into a much bigger event which brings people together to learn from our panel of local business mavericks. I see many of our guests moved by their persistence and passion. They come away with a renewed focus, great connections and the drive to keep going."

Three grant winners will be announced on October 19, 2016 at the South Bay Business Mavericks Gala & Grant Awards; an annual business event bringing together over 150 of the South Bay's local business owners and professionals. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at <http://www.southbaybusinessmavericks.com/>.

The ShopLocal.us Small Business Grant program is open only to small independently-owned retail or service businesses that are based and headquartered in the South Bay of Los Angeles. There is no cost to apply. The deadline to complete the application is September 30, 2016. For more information, visit: [www.shoplocal.us/grant](http://www.shoplocal.us/grant).

### **About ShopLocal.us**

ShopLocal.us is dedicated to building the economy by boosting the visibility and profitability of small independent businesses through advocacy and grassroots publicity. ShopLocal.us raises consumer awareness about local businesses and their impact on building healthy, wealthy & vibrant communities and provides small business marketing strategies. Learn more at: <http://shoplocal.us/grant/> and <http://www.southbaybusinessmavericks.com>. For more information contact Heidi directly at 310-308-0796 or heidi@shoplocal.us.

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**Building Healthy, Wealthy & Vibrant Communities.**